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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,147	11/29/2000	Masao Tamashima	001574	8277

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EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/725,147

Applicant(s)

TAMASHIMA, MASAO

Examiner

Timothy J. Henn

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/22/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 22 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the response filed Applicant has amended the claims to require the image to be "coded" prior to the taking of a next successive picture and processing of size-reduced images after the ending of successive picture taking operations. The examiner notes that as claimed, "a main image coder for coding a single frame" can be equated to the A/D converter 16 in figure 1 of Nagasaki. For example, every time an image is captured by Nagasaki, the image will be converted to a digital domain (i.e. coded) by the A/D converter and stored in memory card 34 to be processed after the ending of successive picture taking operations. The examiner suggests amending the claims to require the use of an image processing algorithm for coding the image and invites the Applicant to contact the examiner should the Applicant have any questions concerning this rejection or potential amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al. (US 5,153,730) in view of Anderson (US 6,137,534).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Nagasaki discloses a digital camera including an image writer for writing images to an internal memory (Figure 1, Item 34), a main image coder for coding a single frame of main image data every time a single picture-taking operation is carried out so as to create a single frame of coded main image data which is reduced in a data amount prior to the taking of the next successive picture (Figure 1, Item 16; c. 6, ll. 5-13) and an image processor for processing the image after ending the successive picture taking operations (Figure 1, Items 31-33). However, Nagasaki does not disclose creation of a plurality of size-reduced coded images after ending the successive picture taking operations.

Anderson discloses a digital camera in which a main image signal is stored together with a compressed size-reduced image corresponding to the main image signal (e.g. Figure 5, Item 608) which provides the ability to accelerate a camera user interface (c. 6, l. 53 - c. 7, l. 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the camera of Nagasaki in view of Kijima to create enhanced image files as taught by Anderson by including compressed-size reduced images along with the full resolution image in order to accelerate a camera user interface. The examiner notes that since Nagasaki teaches image processing after the completion of a successive picture taking operation, the compression of the size-reduced images will inherently take place after ending the successive picture taking as claimed.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Anderson discloses the creation and compression of size-reduced images based on a plurality of compressed main image signals (e.g. c. 8, ll. 1-14). As noted above, the creation and compression of these size-reduced image signals would occur after the completion of the successive image-taking operation as required by Nagasaki.

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, Anderson discloses the creation of size-reduced images by decompressing a main image signal and processing the main image signal in order to create a size-reduced image signal (c. 8, ll. 1-14). However, Anderson does not specifically disclose a thinning out operation in to create the size-reduced image. Official Notice is taken the thinning out of high-resolution images in order to create size-reduced images is notoriously well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a thinning out process as the image processing of Anderson to create the size-reduced image as an easy and fast way to create the size-reduced screennail image of Anderson.

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Nagaski in view of Anderson discloses a size-reduced image creator for creating a single size-reduced image every time the single picture-taking operation is carried out; and a size-reduced image writer for writing the single size-reduced image to the internal memory every time a single creating operation is carried out by the size-reduced image creator, wherein the size-reduced image compressor

compresses the of size-reduced image signals held by the internal memory after ending the successive picture taking operations (e.g. Anderson, Figure 5; each main image signal is stored along with a size-reduced image signal). The examiner notes that the limitation of "every time a single picture-taking operation is carried out" does not require the act to happen prior to the taking of a next picture or the ending of the successive picture-taking operation. Instead, it merely requires a one-to-one correspondence such that each time a first event happens (i.e. a picture-taking operation in this case) a second event will happen (i.e. the creation or writing of a size-reduced image) without requiring a time frame or specific order of operation in relation to the successive-picture taking in which the second event will happen.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following further shows the current state of the art in creation of size-reduced images during successive picture taking operations:

- i. Suzuki US 5,724,579

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

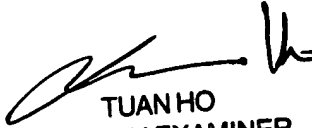
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/725,147
Art Unit: 2622

Page 7

TJH
2/16/2006



TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER